Statement

(b) (i) In consultation with experts, Phenylbutazone and Oxyphenbutazone have been permitted to be marketed for restricted use viz. ankylosing spondylitis and gouty arthritis only.

(ii) These are Schedule 'H' drugs and are required to be sold under the prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner only.

(iii) Package inserts of these drugs are required to highlight the precautions and contra-indications for these drugs.

(iv) Indian Medical Association (IMA) was advised to intimate its members not to prescribe these drugs indiscriminately and restrict their use for the approved indications and not to use these drugs continuously for more than 7 days.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had recommended drugs used for National Health Programmes for price control to the Kelkar Committee. These two drugs are not used for any National Health Programme.

In view of the above position and in the absence of any decision to ban the use of these two drugs, the question of intimating the Kelkar Committee about them does not arise.

Obstacles in sending medical gifts to India from abroad

*206. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the obstacles in sending medical gifts to India by the Indian doctors working in America; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to simplify the procedure in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) There are no obstacles on the part of the Government in sending medical gifts to India by Indian doctors working in America.

(b) Procedures have already been simplified as far as possible.

Interception of Telephonic Conversation

*207. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of persons, circle-wise, whose telephonic conversation has been ordered to the intercepted by/or on behalf of the Central Government or a State Government as on 1st April, 1989;

(b) whether order of interception is of definite duration or subject to periodical review; and

(c) whether the list has been reviewed by the competent authority during 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) It will not be in the public interest to disclose the names of persons whose telephonic conversation has been ordered to be intercepted by/or on behalf of the Central Government.

In respect of such interceptions ordered by or on behalf of State Government, the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House, keeping in view the larger public interest.

(b) and (c) Every order of interception is for a specific duration and is subject to periodic review by the competent authority.

Seeking Swiss help in recording of evidence in India under the Swiss Federal Act on International Mutual Assistance

*208. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any FIR for criminal proceedings was filed by Government after the Swedish Audit Bureau revealed that

huge payments had been made in secret Swiss Bank accounts by the Bofors in the Howitzer gun deal so that an Indian Court, Judge or Magistrate could seek Swiss help for knowing about the recipients of the Bofors payments;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what strategy Government have adopted in this case to proceed with?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) A case has been registered by the CBI.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It has been decided to continue the investigation.

Bill to ban sex determination tests

*209. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 7 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th July, 1989 and state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring forward a Bill in the Current session of Parliament for banning sex-selective foeticide;

(b) if so, what are the mani features of this Bill; and

(c) whether Government also propose to invite public opinion on banning the sex-determination tests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The proposed legislation would aim at banning of the abuse of amniocentesis and other pre-natal tests that are now sometime misused to determine the sex so that female foatus can be aborted. The Bill would seek to forbid these tests in private clinics restricting them to State Government, Local Self Government hospitals, approved institutions and clinical research institutions. The Bill would also seek to provide for stringent punishment for those who violate the ban on such tests. A detailed legislation in this regard is under preparation.

(c) The Government is already aware of public opinion demanding regulation of sex determination tests. It is in response to this opinion that the Government has decided to consider introducing, as early as possible, a legislation to regulate sex-determination tests. There is no need to invite public opinion on this issue as such.

*210 (*Cancelled.*)

HS 748 Military Freighter Aircraft

*211. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether both the Army, and the Air Force had categorically stated that HS-748 military freighter aircraft did not meet their requirements and even then it was inducted into the Army and Air Force; if so, the reasons for which the advice of both the Army and the Air Force was ignored;

(b) whether an investment of about Rs. 76.84 crore, thus made by Government, became largely infructuous;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) whether the aircraft's performance has forced the Indian Air Force to continue their search for a suitable aircraft in the Medium Tactical Transport Aircraft role, if so, what is the latest position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (d) The need for a suitable Medium Tactical Transport Aircraft (METAC) to replace the Dakota and Packet aircraft of the IAF was felt as early as in 1965. Between 1965 and 1972, a number of aircraft available in the world market were, therefore, evaluated. None of the aircraft was found to be suitable to meet our requirements. In view of this, and in view of the fact that the